AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of the claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) An electric compressor comprising:

a compression mechanism which sucks, compresses and discharges fluid;

an electric motor which drives said compression mechanism;

a housing containing said compression mechanism and said electric motor; and

an inverter which drives said electric motor,

wherein an inverter case of said inverter is externally attached to an end wall of said housing in an axial direction and at a side of said housing having a suction port which introduces fluid into said compression mechanism,

an intake passage which returns fluid from an outside of said compressor into said suction port, wherein said suction port is provided in said inverter case, and wherein said intake passage has a thermal binding portion which thermally binds said intake passage to said inverter, said thermal binding portion having a plurality of fins projecting into a fluid path of said intake passage, said inverter case having an end surface connected to an end wall of said housing ~~so as to define~~ such that said end surface of the inverter case defines at least part of said intake passage, and said thermal binding portion being positioned within said inverter case.

2. (Currently Amended) An electric compressor comprising:

a compression mechanism which sucks, compresses and discharges fluid;

an electric motor which drives said compression mechanism;

a housing containing said compression mechanism and said electric motor; and

an inverter which drives said electric motor,

wherein an inverter case of said inverter is externally attached to an end wall of said housing in an axial direction at a side of said compression mechanism having a discharge port, said end wall having a suction port which returns fluid to said compression mechanism,

an intake passage which returns fluid to said suction port, wherein said suction port is provided in said inverter case, and wherein said intake passage has a thermal binding portion which thermally binds said intake passage to said inverter, wherein an air layer is provided between said intake passage and said end wall, and wherein said thermal binding portion has a plurality of fins projecting into a fluid path of said intake passage, said inverter case having an end surface connected to an end wall of said housing ~~so as to define~~ such that said end surface of the inverter case defines at least part of said intake passage, and said thermal binding portion being positioned within said inverter case.

3. (Previously Presented) The electric compressor according to claim 1, wherein said thermal binding portion is positioned adjacent to substantially an entire area of at least a high heating portion of said inverter.

4. (Previously Presented) The electric compressor according to claim 1 further comprising mounting legs configured to mount said electric compressor either horizontally or at an incline with respect to said axial direction.

5. (Previously Presented) The electric compressor according to claim 1, wherein said housing is divided into an inverter attachment side and an opposing side provided opposite said inverter attachment side in an axial direction.

6. (Previously Presented) The electric compressor according to claim 1, further comprising a connection pin of a compressor terminal, which connects said electric motor to the outside, said connection pin being directly connected to a circuit board of said inverter.

7. (Previously Presented) The electric compressor according to claim 6, wherein said compressor terminal has a seal portion provided in a connection port of said inverter case, the seal portion being connected to an inside of said housing.

8. (Previously Presented) The electric compressor according to claim 2, wherein said thermal binding portion is positioned adjacent to substantially an entire area of at least a high heating portion of said inverter.

9. (Previously Presented) The electric compressor according to claim 2, further comprising mounting legs configured to mount said electric compressor either horizontally or at an incline with respect to said axial direction.

10. (Previously Presented) The electric compressor according to claim 2, wherein said housing is divided into an inverter attachment side and an opposing side provided opposite said inverter attachment side in an axial direction.

11. (Previously Presented) The electric compressor according to claim 2, further comprising a connection pin of a compressor terminal, which connects said electric motor to the outside, said connection pin being directly connected to a circuit board of said inverter.

12. (Previously Presented) The electric compressor according to claim 11, wherein said compressor terminal has a seal portion provided in a connection port of said inverter case, the seal portion being connected to an inside of said housing.

STATEMENT OF SUBSTANCE OF THE INTERVIEW

As an initial matter, Applicants would like to thank the Examiner, Mr. Patrick Hamo, and the Examiner's Supervisor, Mr. Devon Kramer, for the courtesy of a telephone interview extended to Applicants' Attorney, Mr. Enoch E. Peavey, on April 14, 2008. During the interview, Applicants' Attorney discussed differences between the presently claimed invention and the applied prior art including KURIHARA et al. (U.S. Patent No.7,083,399) with the Examiner. In regard to claim 1, the Examiner agreed that the proposed amendments to independent claims 1 and 2 (which are consistent with the herein-contained amendments to claims 1 and 2) would overcome the rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a), which rely on KURIHARA.